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## Attempt on poet's life: 3 more held

By Staff Correspondent

Three more persons were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in the attempt to kill poet Shamsur Rahman.

They are Shahabuddin, son of late Samsul Alami of Mirzapur under Hathazari thana in Chittagong, Maulana Salim Hossain, son of Hafez Samudin of Angarpab in Manikganj and Nazrul Islam, son of Golam Basit of Mirpur in Sirajganj, according to CID sources.

They were arrested from their residents by personnel of the Joint Investigation Cell (JIC) and brought to Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, investigators revealed identities of the five, including two foreigners, who were arrested from a madrasah at Utara in the city on Monday for their alleged link with Harkat-Uz-Jihad, an extremist Islamic group blamed for the attack. Poet Shamsur Rahman was attacked at his Shyamoli residence in the city on January 18.

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## 6 new envoys appointed

By Staff Correspondent

The government has appointed six new envoys. Two of them are political appointees and four are career diplomats.

Principal Qamruzzaman, an AL Presidium member, has been appointed envoy to Morocco while former president of Netherlands Awami League for 18 years, Mrs Shelley Zaman, has been appointed ambassador to Spain, official sources said.

Three veteran career diplomats have been given ambassadorial appointments. Sirajul Islam, Director General (South Asia), has been appointed envoy to Egypt, Jamil Majid, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, to Japan and Sohrab Hossain, Director General at the Prime Minister's office, to Thailand.

Sohrab Hossain will replace Akramul Quader who has been appointed High Commissioner to South Africa.

Shelley Zaman would be the country's third female ambassador. Earlier, Tahmina Khan Dolly was appointed High Commissioner to Sri Lanka during BNP government while Mahmuda Huq from the foreign service served as envoy to Bhutan.

Rashed Ahmed, now envoy to Japan, Syed Mohammad Hossain, envoy to Morocco and Mizanur Rahman envoy to Spain have gone on LPR. Tariq Karim High Commissioner in South Africa, has asked for voluntary retirement. Ruhul Amin, ambassador to Egypt, will be returning to the head-quarters.

## Hasina leaves for Calcutta today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for Calcutta on a three-day visit today to inaugurate the prestigious Calcutta Book Fair and receive honorary D Lit degree from Bishwa Bharati University, reports UNB.

Hasina will inaugurate the book fair in the afternoon and deliver a speech. Bangladesh is the theme country of the 10th Calcutta Book Fair.

She will also attend the opening ceremony of Bangladesh Gate at the Bangladesh Pavilion at the Book Fair.

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### Prayer Timings

January 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:22	5:26
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:42	5:45
Esha	7:10	7:20

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Colombian quake kills over 1000

### Death toll may exceed 2000

ARMENIA (Colombia), Jan 26: The death toll surpassed 1,000 today from a powerful earthquake that destroyed nearly two-thirds of all the buildings in a western Colombian city, reports AP.

Stunned residents in Colombia's coffee belt chose to wait out the night around bonfires rather than venture back into their crumpled homes following the magnitude 6 quake, which injured hundreds.

The earthquake flattened cities and towns across western Colombia on Monday afternoon, rattling buildings as far away as the capital, Bogota, 225

kilometers from the epicenter. Hundreds of the dead lived in Armenia, a city of 220,000 residents where entire neighborhoods were reduced to rubble and left without water or electricity, and where residents say relief has been slow to arrive.

Capt Ciro Antonio Guiza, the city's deputy fire chief, said rescue workers were so strapped that many bodies remained on the streets uncollected. See page 11



A residential neighbourhood in Armenia, 110 miles, west of the capital of Colombia, Bogota, after an earthquake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6, tore up western Colombia on Monday, killing over 1000 people. — UNB/AP photo

## Municipal hopefuls defy 18-hour hartal

By Staff Correspondent

Defying an opposition-sponsored hartal across the country yesterday, at least 8,450 nomination papers were filed for the February 23-25 elections in 140 municipalities, according to the Election Commission (EC) till midnight last night.

The deadline for submission was 10pm, and the EC was compiling statistics till filing of this report at 12:50 last night.

EC officials claimed that yesterday's hartal did not disrupt the process of filing of nomination papers anywhere in the country.

They said there were no reports of non-filing from any of the 140 municipalities going to polls. But reports were still awaited from some of them.

Defying instructions to boycott the polls and threats by their respective parties, a large number of opposition leaders also submitted nomination papers yesterday, opposition sources said. But their exact number could not be known immediately.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised today. The last date for withdrawal of candidacy is February 3.

Of the 8,450, a total of 628 filed for chairman while 6,129 for commissioner.

Besides, 1,693 submitted for 441 reserved seats for women commissioners.

The alliance of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and IOJ

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